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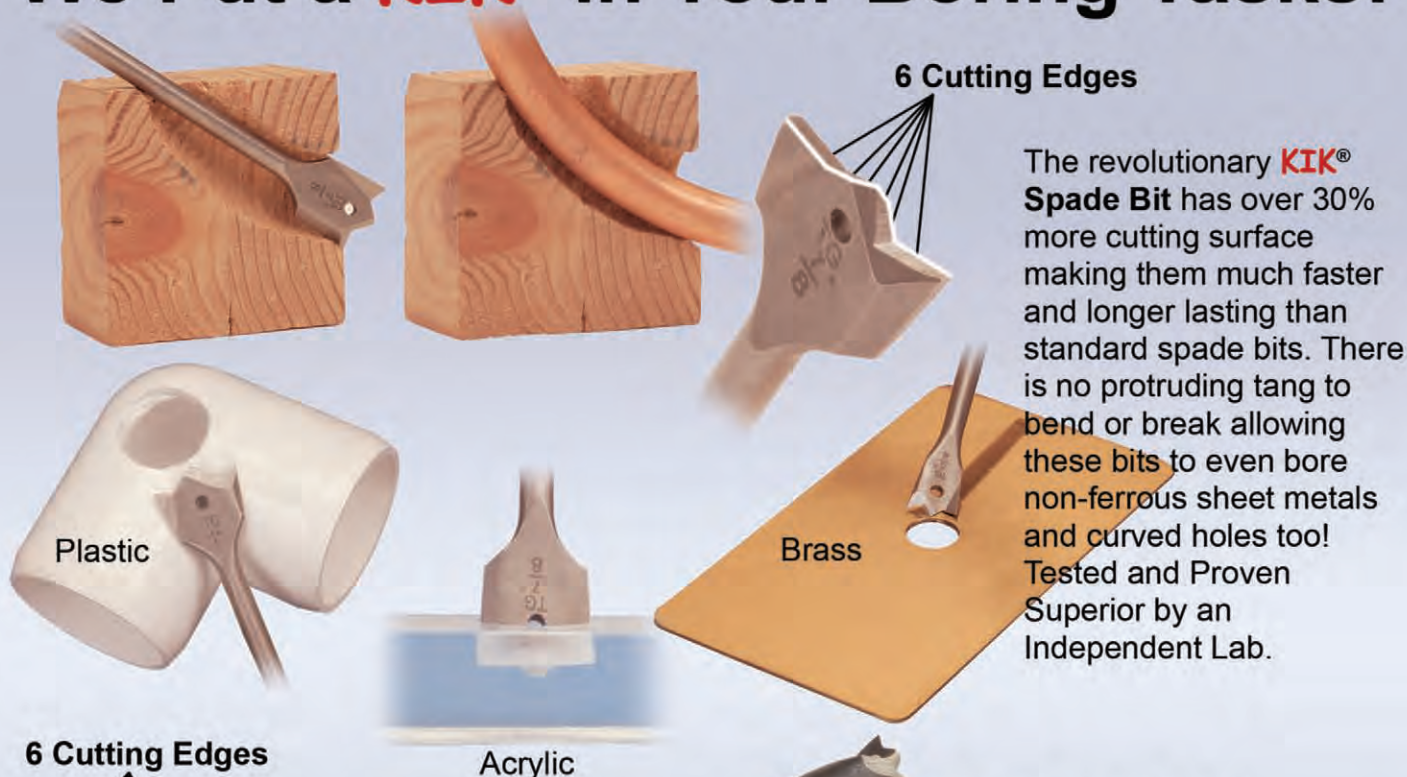
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Both Facebook and Twitter are free services, so visit us soon online. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue of *Extreme How-To* where we focus on garages and workshops with a step-by-step tutorial on installing a garage door and automatic opener.

We also explore options for workshop heating in the winter months, and we take a look at new products and materials to outfit the workspace of the DIY homeowner. Thanks for reading, and we look forward to your "friend request" on the Internet.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Matt Weber
mweber@latitude3.com

COPY EDITOR

Tanya Thompson

ADVISORY BOARD

Monte Burch
Kevin Hayes
Kathy Ziprik
Mark Clement

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Wesley Glassco

CIRCULATION

Mark H. Gamble

PUBLISHER

Chad Gillikin
cgillikin@latitude3.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Jeremy Hollingsworth
jhollingsworth@latitude3.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Hal Jones
hjones@latitude3.com

Jan Logan
jlogan@latitude3.com

Martha Stephens
mstephens@latitude3.com

Martin Smith
msmith@latitude3.com

BUSINESS MANAGER

Dusty Statham

REPRINTS

Jackie Epler
717-481-7677
jepler@reprintdept.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Kable News
888-587-8911

PRESIDENT

Trent R. Boozer

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Chad Gillikin

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

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SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

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Q: Our rear deck is a little too bouncy. Is there any way to stabilize this without a complete rebuild?

A: A “bouncy” deck is usually caused by long joists between beams. Assuming you can access the support framing, you can strengthen the deck by installing rows of blocking cut to fit tightly between the joists, spaced every 3 to 4 feet along the span. The blocking should be the same size as the joists (usually made of 2-by-8 or 2-by-10). Drive three 16d galvanized nails through the joists into each end of the blocking. The blocks should be installed in a staggered pattern.

Another option to stabilize the deck: Install an additional beam and support posts to the deck framing. But the blocking method is less complicated.

Q: I'd like to refinish a cast iron clawfoot tub, but the prices I've been quoted are outrageous. Is this something I can do myself?

A: A cast iron tub can be refinished. However, be forewarned that this is a challenging project that's usually best left to an experienced professional. With that being said, refinishing a tub is basically a painting project, so mask off all the edges and protect everything you don't want painted with a drop cloth. Then repair all nicks and holes with the appropriate filler and sand the areas smooth. In fact, some professionals recommend using Bondo auto body filler, sanding it with progressively smaller grit and finally wet-sanding with 1,000-grit for a glassy finish. Prime the tub with an epoxy primer, and spray on an epoxy-based appliance paint, which creates a hard, durable shell.

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Q: Two doors in my house have lousy hinges. The screws have stripped out of the casing and now the doors swing crooked. I have to tilt them to close them. Do I have to replace the wood door casing, or is there an easier way?

A: First remove the door to access the screw holes. Locate the stripped holes and insert wooden golf tees into them. Sometimes, toothpicks will work. The extra wood material will plug the holes, and you can cut them flush with the door frame using a sharp utility knife. Then, reattach the door and screws. Screwing into the tees will force them to expand and tighten the hinge.

Q: How do I remove a mirror that is glued to the drywall?

A: The EHT staff asked three different contractors this question and got three different answers. One method is to cut out the mirror with the wallboard attached. Use a utility knife or drywall saw to cut completely through the gypsum board along the mirror perimeter, and then rock the mirror panel back and forth until it pops out. To more easily handle the mirror, you can rent suction cup handles designed for windshield installation. Of course, this method leaves a huge hole that will require new wallboard, and it can be difficult if the wallboard is secured tightly to the studs.

Another method is to use "windshield removal wire," also called cutout wire, which is a braided steel wire used in automotive shops. Use a couple of short dowels as handles and work the wire like dental floss behind the mirror, starting at a corner and working it down the length of the mirror to cut through the adhesive. You'll need to keep the mirror clips in place to support the mirror once the glue is broken. If you plan to reuse the mirror, then be careful not to damage the silver backing with the wire.

The third method will remove the mirror but it's not likely to come off the wall intact. First, use plenty of tape to mask off the mirror up and down, left to right. Mask off the whole thing to prevent pieces of broken glass from flying around. Using several flat pry bars around the edge of the mirror, have some helpers, equipped with gloves and safety glasses, slowly pry the mirror away from the wall. As the mirror breaks, you can remove it in sections. No matter what method you choose, it's not a one-person job so recruit some help. **EHT**

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New Stanley Flashlights

With LED technology and innovative design upgrades, this new line of Stanley flashlights provides a handy solution for the DIY'er.



By Matt Weber

Lack of visibility tends to bring home-improvement projects to a screeching halt, so a convenient space-saving source of light is an indispensable asset for countless projects. From working under an automobile to working beneath a sink, these confined, poorly lit spaces need extra illumination to do the best work possible, but the old style of halogen work lamps and incandescent drop lights can be cumbersome to work with, require hassling with a power cord and can generate a lot of unwanted heat—so much heat as to cause a painful burn if you bump against it.

The space constraints of many work areas are what contribute

to the lack of the light exposure. These constricted areas also mean there isn't much room to use a lamp, and if you do you'll likely be working right up against that sizzling source of heat. In response, the new flashlights from Stanley Hand Tools provide a very compact but high-capacity light source that conserves space and utilizes LED technology to provide a strong spot beam without the high temperatures.

TRIPOD FLASHLIGHT

Stanley's 95-112 Tripod Flashlight incorporates a patented three-leg design for hands-free convenience during virtually any home project or emergency situation. As a work lamp, the

multi-position head allows you to aim the light beam right where you need it, while the anodized aluminum legs keep it stable and on target. To use as a flashlight, simply collapse the legs together to use as the handle. The single LED beam provides a strong, bright spot (20 lumens).

Another unique feature is the flashlight's 369 battery technology. The AA batteries are loaded into the legs by twisting off the rubber feet. Each leg can hold three batteries, however the flashlight will operate at full capacity whether using three, six or nine batteries. The Stanley Tripod Flashlight is only 11 inches long and comes with a shatter-resistant lens for extra durability if it gets knocked over or dropped on the job.

The Tripod Flashlight is available in three models. The popular 95-112 model features a 0.5-watt bulb that lasts 100,000 hours. The high-power 95-146 model has a brightness of 40 lumens using a 1.25-watt bulb.



The 95-112 Tripod Flashlight from Stanley functions as both a handheld flashlight and a hands-free work lamp.

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The multi-position head of the Tripod Flashlight allows you to aim the light right where you need it.



Also available is a camouflage version with a four-position switch that lets you choose Low, Medium, High or Off, as well as two MiniTripod Flashlights that measure only 3-1/2 inches long.

3-IN-1 TRIPOD FLASHLIGHT

Running with the Tripod idea, Stanley has outfitted a similar model, the 95-155 3-in-1 Tripod LED Flashlight, with three independent flashlights that combine like Voltron into one larger, more powerful flashlight. Each separate flashlight generates 20 lumens of light, and the head of each light articulates 120 degrees. The base of the flashlight includes three legs that release with the press of a button and spread for use as a work lamp. In lamp configuration the three heads point in three different directions, which can light much of an entire room. When all the lights are in the base of the flashlight, a single ON/OFF button activates them simultaneously. You can also pull only one or two of the flashlights out of the base while using the remaining lights in the tripod.



Stanley's 3-in-1 Flashlight works as a single powerful flashlight or three individual flashlights.

As a work lamp, the 3-in-1 model can cast light in three directions.



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SPOT LIGHT

The three 0.5-watt LED bulbs last 100,000 hours and combine for 60 lumens of brightness with a beam distance of 375 feet, when in single flashlight mode. The 95-155 3-in-1 Tripod LED Flashlight requires six AA batteries for a runtime of five hours.

RECHARGEABLE ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT

Stanley's 95-154 Rechargeable Aluminum Flashlight is less of a work light and more of an all-around utility light, but at a compact 5 inches long and only 1-1/2 inches in diameter, it can fit into those tricky nooks and crannies where larger lights are impractical.

This Rechargeable Aluminum Flashlight has a 3-watt LED that generates 70 lumens of light output. It includes special



The head of each individual flashlight articulates 120 degrees.

reflectors designed to provide a very strong, focused beam. The flashlight includes a weather-resistant, shatter-proof lens that is durable for all types of use,

and high-visibility yellow bands in the handle make it easy to see in low-light conditions. The 95-154 Aluminum Flashlight includes a charging adapter and

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SPOT LIGHT



The 95-154 Rechargeable Aluminum Flashlight has a heavy-duty handle to withstand a lot of jobsite abuse.

Ni-MH rechargeable batteries for two hours of runtime per charge.

BOTTOM LINE

For home inspectors, electricians and plumbers, the Rechargeable Aluminum Flashlight is probably a good, rugged choice, because its

heavy-duty aluminum handle will stand up to a lot of jobsite abuse. However, it sells for more than \$30, which is a bit on the high side.

If a very compact flashlight is something you only use occasionally, then you get three of them and more with the 3-in-1 Tripod

Flashlight. And, the 3-in-1 model sells for a little less than the Rechargeable Aluminum model.

For work areas where you require a strong spot from a hands-free work lamp, both the 3-in-1 and the original 95-112 Tripod Flashlight work great, but of course the 3-in-1 has the added advantage of sending light in three directions at once. Although, the Tripod is more economically priced, selling for less than \$20 at the time of publication.

The 95-112 Tripod also trumps the 3-in-1 model in runtime. With the aforementioned 369 Battery Technology, you can expect more than 200 hours of runtime from the Tripod Flashlight. Compare that to the five hours you get from the 3-in-1 model.

For more information, visit www.stanleytools.com. **EHT**

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Installing a Garage Door and Opener

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Installing a Garage Door and Opener



Installing a garage door is a basic weekend do-it-yourself chore. You'll need a few tools, probably a helper or two, and about a day and a half to install the door.

Installing a new garage door and opener may seem daunting at first, but if you take your time and do the job step-by-step, it's a good weekend project. It will take from nine to 12 hours for most doors, then another two to four hours for the opener. You will need help for some portions, such as lifting out the old door and lifting the new door up until the tension springs can be installed (some doors may weigh up to 400 pounds). You may need to remove an old door, or you may be installing in new construction.

The door shown, from Holmes Garage Door Company, was purchased at our local Lowe's store. The information shown here is for that particular door. Make sure you carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for your particular door, especially the instructions for safe installation and use of the door. The instructions included here are shortened due to space constraints.

Do remember that during the installation, the garage will be open and unsecured when disassembling the old door and assembling the new door. And, once you start the installation, if the garage door is the only opening into the building, make sure you have all the tools inside and the time and help required to complete the chore.



TOOLS REQUIRED

Needed are C-clamps or locking pliers, hammer, screwdriver, tape measure, level, socket wrench set, pliers, drill and 1/4-, 3/16- and 3/8-inch bits, stepladder, and sawhorses for holding the sections during assembly. I also suggest a small impact wrench and sockets, which cut at least an hour off the assembly. You will need some additional materials, including light household oil and materials for the rear track hangers. These are not supplied with the door due to ceiling height differences. This includes a punched angle for the rear hangers,

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1-1/4-by-1-1/4-inch with a minimum angle of at least 13 gauge, or 3/32-inch thick. Eight 3/8-by-1-inch bolts and nuts for rear track hangers; six 5/16-by-1-1/2-inch lag screws for rear track hangers; ten 10d 3-inch nails and stop molding are also needed.

REMOVING THE OLD DOOR

The manufacturer's instructions for our door included information on removing the old door. Garage doors use two different types of springs to balance the weight. Either torsion or extension springs are used to provide the assisting power in opening and closing the door. Look at your old door and determine which type it is.

Removing the old door can be dangerous if you don't follow instructions, use the right tools and have help. Serious injury can occur if spring tension has not been released before other work begins. You will need one or more helpers. Lift the door to the fully open position, then place C-clamps or locking pliers tightly on both sides of the track to hold the door securely in place. Unhook the cable and springs from each end, and then remove the spring assembly or extension springs. Place a couple of 4-by-4 wood blocks on the floor under the door location, and then with help, remove the C-clamps and lower the door. You won't feel much weight at first, but as the door is lowered it becomes progressively heavier. Make sure to keep all hands and fingers clear of section joints, track and other door parts while the door is coming down.

Now the hard part is done. Starting at the top section, remove the hardware then the door sections one at a time. Remove all remaining track and hardware. You may be able to reuse the hangers at the rear end of the overhead tracks if they are the right size and not deteriorated. Do not attempt to use the old track for the new door.

INSTALLING THE NEW DOOR

Follow instructions for preparing the opening. The door shown requires 2-by-6 jambs. Door stop molding is



First step is to build a solid jamb to support the track. 2x6's are recommended.



The next step is to temporarily nail the outside door stop in place, flush with the inside edge of the jamb.



Lay the sections on a pair of padded sawhorses and assemble. A pneumatic impact wrench makes assembly quick and easy, but don't over-tighten screws or bolts.



With the first section assembled, position it in place and level it using shims and a carpenter's level.



Temporarily fasten the section in place using 16d nails driven into the jamb and angled to hold the section against the jamb.

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then temporarily nailed to the jamb edges and flush with their inside edges.

Spread all door parts out on the garage floor in groups so you can readily find parts. Cover the tops of a pair of saw horses with



Assemble the remaining sections, fitting each down on top of the other.

carpet scraps for assembling the sections. Assemble the bottom section first, according to the manufacturer's directions. Also, install the lift handle according to the instructions.

Position the bottom section in the opening so it is against the stop molding and centered from side to side. Level the section, adding shims as necessary. Then drive a nail into the door jambs on either side, and against the door section. Slant or slightly bend the nail to hold the door section securely in place.

Assemble and stack the remaining sections in place, anchoring them securely in place with the nails. Fasten the sections together as you go with the hinges, according to the manufacturer's instructions.



As you fit the sections in place, fasten them together according to manufacturer's instructions.

Once all sections are installed then place the rollers in the sections' roller supports.

Next, assemble the track. Loosely fasten the support brackets in place. Then place the track over the rollers and position the

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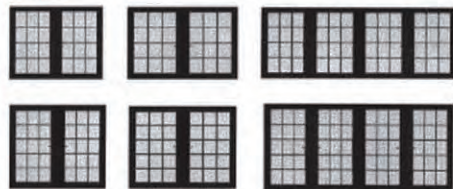
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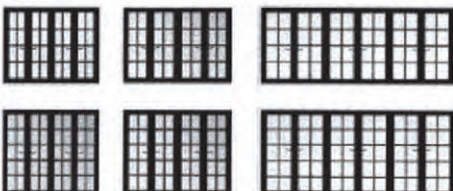
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Continue temporarily holding the sections in place with nails angled against their sides.

track so the rollers are all the way in the hinges. Don't crowd the track against the rollers, however, or you may cause the door to bind.

Once the track is properly positioned, drill pilot holes for the lag screws and fasten the track's holding brackets to the jambs. Once the tracks are installed, fasten the brackets securely to the tracks.

Then fasten the curved track sections in place to the



The horizontal tracks and front supports are assembled and the tracks temporarily supported by ropes or wire. It's important the tracks be square with the door and each other.

horizontal sections. Temporarily support the outer ends of the horizontal tracks from the ceiling with a stepladder or rope, and then fasten the curved track sections and angle brackets to the vertical tracks.

Make up the rear track hangers and anchor them to the ceiling. It is extremely important to position these correctly. The tracks must be level, and square with the door as well as with each other. Measure diagonally

between one of the hangers and the door corner, then measure the opposite hanger to door corner. The measurements should be the same. If not, adjust so the tracks are no less than 1/2 inch out of square. Also make sure the measurements between the tracks are the same as at the door. Then, fasten the tracks to the rear hangers. Make sure the hangers are solidly supported to carry the weight of the raised door. Adjust the top door



Assemble and fasten the vertical tracks in place.



Once the outer ends of the horizontal tracks are located, punched-metal supports are installed to hold the tracks and door in place.



The springs and spring hardware are then installed.

If the door isn't to have an opener, manual locks, supplied with the door, are installed.



section rollers so the top section is tight against the jamb. Install the exterior or interior locks as desired. Then install the pull rope on manually operated doors.

Assemble and install the springs according to the manufacturer's instructions. With a helper or two, carefully raise the door to about half way and prop it open on sawhorses or other strong support. Make sure the

horizontal tracks are parallel with each side of the door and that the rollers are not out of the top brackets more than 1/2 inch. Readjust the rear hangers if necessary. Again with a helper or two, carefully raise the door



If the door is to have an opener, door stiffeners are installed, according to manufacturer's instructions. They are supplied by most manufacturers.

Then the attachment bar for the garage door opener is installed.



into full open position and use C-clamps on the tracks to hold it in place. As you raise the door further, make sure the horizontal tracks are parallel and the rollers don't come out of the hinges or brackets. Fasten the spring assembly to the door and attach safety spring holders, following the manufacturer's instructions. Adjust the spring tension according to manufacturer's directions so the door opens and closes easily.

INSTALLING AN AUTOMATIC OPENER

It will take about a half day to add a garage door opener to your new door. Remove the pull rope if installing an opener to prevent strangulation or injury to children. All locks should also be disabled or removed. The door we purchased came with an automatic opener bracket and strengthener. This should be installed following the



First step in installing the garage door opener is to lay out the components and make sure you have all parts and understand where they go.

instructions. The opener we installed was the new Craftsman Belt-Drive Garage Door Opener with DieHard Battery Back-up. The following information is for that particular opener. Make sure you follow

"Open Sesame!"

Installing a Garage Door and Opener



Assemble the track, carrier and opener into one unit.

Fasten the track to the door header. Use a 2x4 across the garage door tracks to temporarily support the opener and outer track end.



instructions with your particular opener, including safety instructions. Do not install the opener on an unbalanced or unlubricated door. The tools required include; a stepladder, level, drill and 3/16-, 5/16- and 5/32-inch bits, tape measure, socket set and wrench, pencil, wire cutters, pliers, locking pliers, hammer, hack saw, screwdriver and adjustable end wrench.

Before installing, examine the door and surrounding construction. You may need additional materials in order to safely install the door opener. The header bracket for the opener must have a solid support. If you have a finished ceiling in the garage, a support

bracket and fastening hardware may be required. You may also need wooden blocks or extension brackets to install the sensors. If your door is more than 7 feet high, you'll need a rail extension kit. With the door down, check the gap between the door and the floor. The gap must not be more than 1/4 inch, or the safety reversal system may not work properly. Repair the floor to eliminate any gaps.

First step is to open the carton and lay out all parts. Consult the manufacturer's instruction book and determine if you have all parts. Then assemble the rail and install the trolley on the rail. Fasten the rail to the motor unit and install the idler pulley. The opener shown is belt-driven, and the next step is to install the belt and set the belt tension.

Installation methods may vary according to the type of garage door you have. Make sure you follow instructions for your specific brand and type of

door. Fasten the header bracket in place and attach the rail to the header bracket. Swing the opener/track assembly up in place and support it with a 2-by-4 laid flat across the tracks. Hang the motor/track in place with the appropriate hanging bracket. Remove the 2-by-4 and operate the door manually. If the door strikes the rail, raise the header bracket.

Install the door control in place and run bell wire to the opener. Install the emergency release handle and place the light bulb in place. The opener must have an electrical supply. This can be either a grounded receptacle, or be permanently wired following local codes. Then install the sensors or protector system according to manufacturer's instructions. Install the door bracket and connect the door arm to the bracket and trolley. Adjust the travel limits and force of the opener. After this is all done, make sure you test the safety reversal and protector systems according to the opener manufacturer's instructions. Finally, install the safety labels supplied with the door and/or opener. **EHT**



In the case of the Craftsman unit shown, the DieHard battery backup is then installed.



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UPGRADE YOUR GARAGE (OR WORKSHOP)

A lot of serious DIY'ers have a second home at their home—that being the garage or workshop. What superficially appears to be a cluttered shelter for tools and materials is, to some, a solitary retreat from a noisy household, to others, a mad scientists' laboratory for germinating projects yet to come. Whether a skilled carpenter or a part-time tinkerer, a home-improvement enthusiast's garage or workshop is often considered sacred ground, deserving at least as much attention to design as the kitchen and great room. Here's a look at a few garage amenities to consider when outfitting your home headquarters.

SNAP-TOGETHER TILE FOR THE GREEN-MINDED HOMEOWNER

To add some much needed décor to a lifeless concrete slab floor, snap-together tile systems are available in a wide array of colors and styles. To install the garage floor, just snap a few square layout lines on the floor to guide the installation and then simply place the tiles side by side, interlocking the pegs under one tile with the loops on the edge of the other. Installation couldn't be much simpler, and by mixing and matching colors the installer can invent customized decorative patterns. A quality snap-together floor system creates an attractive, non-slip, solid surface that is durable and easy to clean.

UPGRADE YOUR GARAGE (OR WORKSHOP)

The *EHT* staff covered the floor of our workshop with SwissTrax brand flooring with a diamond-tread pattern, called DiamondTrax. We installed a checkerboard pattern with alternating colors of light gray and slate gray. The DiamondTrax flooring refuses to chip break no matter how many tools or heavy materials we drop on it, and it provides a softer, more back-friendly floor than hard slab concrete.

The SwissTrax company offers a variety of garage tiles available in up to 14 colors. The company's most popular seller is Ribtrax, which has an open profile that allows water to drain through the tiles, keeping walkways dry and safe.

Lately, Swisstrax has made great strides in "green" manufacturing with its recycling program, which is carried out within a 10-mile radius of the company's factory in Southern California to minimize shipping and its resulting carbon footprint. The new Swisstrax program turns recycled parts into high-quality, low-cost flooring tiles. Furthermore, when you're ready for a new floor, the company will buy back your flooring at a fair price or give you a credit toward your future flooring purchase. The product Swisstrax receives in return will be recycled again. Another advantage is that you can keep your investment, since you can move the floor to a new home or workshop. The recycled Swisstrax flooring carries a rollover weight of more than 25,000 pounds and comes with a 7-year warranty.

THE CONVENIENCE OF AN AUTOMATIC GARAGE DOOR OPENER

Whether you're loaded down with arms full of tools and materials, or parking your car during



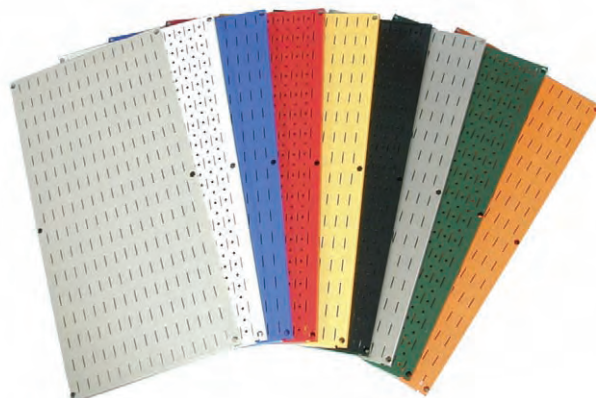
a rainstorm, an automatic garage door opener can make life a little easier.

The newest garage door opener from Overhead Door Corporation is the Standard Drive, which is designed for easy installation, quiet operation and durability. The DualDrive chain system was specifically designed to bring a new "quiet" benchmark for homeowners who have a living space above the garage and want an opener that provides smooth, low-noise operation at a great value. The Standard Drive garage door opener also features the self-diagnostic Safe-T-Beam System that stops and reverses the closing door if an object passes through the infrared beam. The system's self-diagnostic functions alert homeowners of improper operations, pinpoint specific problems and help identify solutions. The new opener also features the CodeDodger Access Security System, in which a new access code is activated from 4.3 billion combinations each time the remote control is used, in order to prevent piracy of the radio signal.

THE WALL AS STORAGE SPACE

A couple of nails in the wall serving as storage hooks are par for the course in virtually any garage or workshop. A few dozen nails is another story, and while no one will be giving your workspace the "white glove test," some degree of organization will pay off not only in garage décor, but also when searching for that lone, misplaced tool.

The traditional upgrade from the scattered-nail approach has been pegboards made from pressboard panels, but the material has a tendency to warp, swell, crack or fray when it absorbs moisture. In response, Wall Control, has developed an all-steel pegboard panel that



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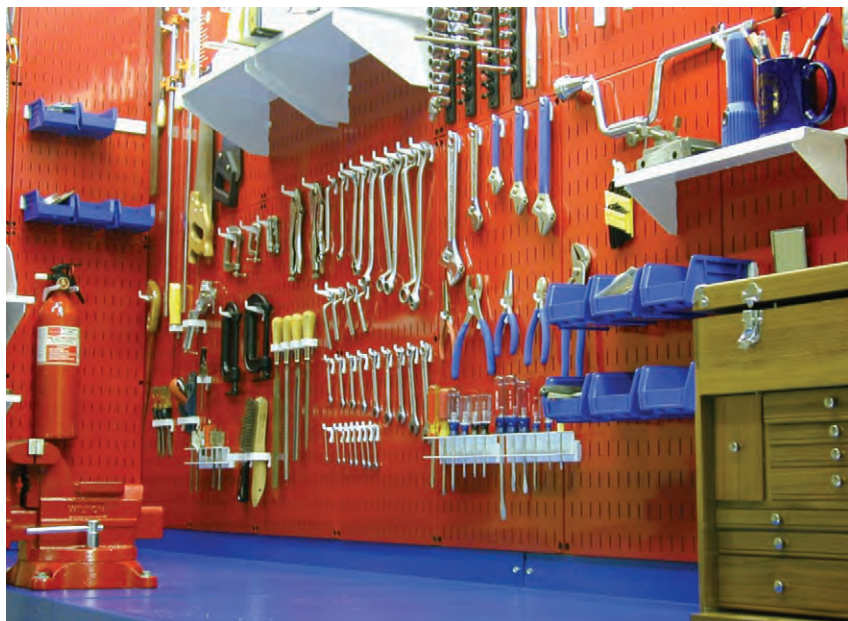
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utilizes a secure hook and shelving system. The strength of steel combined with a formed flange around the perimeter make Wall Control's metal pegboard panels more than 10 times stronger than conventional pegboard. More strength equals more storage.

Ease of installation was also a key concern when designing during the system. Manufactured with the built-in flange on all four sides, the Wall Control storage panel requires no pre-built framework and mounts directly to any flat surface. The flange spaces the panel's perforated face away from the wall so the hooks and accessories will engage with no wasted area. The convenient 16-by-32-inch standard size and modular design make it easy to handle and a snap to install. The durable steel panels are available in eight different powder-coated colors, along with a variety of hooks, brackets, shelves and accessories. (www.wallcontrol.com).

PORTABLE POWER FROM GENERAC

Bad weather often leaves homeowners without electricity, and a backup power supply can provide peace of mind. Plus, even when all is well with the power grid, portable power can be a great convenience any time work is required in remote areas where no electrical outlet is available.

Generac Power Systems introduces a complete line of GP and XP portable generators that

includes 13 different power models. "From home use to tailgating or camping, construction or outdoor events, our portable generators provide end users with dependable power when they need it," says Clement Feng, executive vice president and chief marketing officer, Generac. "The professional-grade XP line is engineered for high performance, long periods of operation and rough handling at job sites, while the GP line is ideal for less frequent usage, such as during camping or at home during storm-related power outages." The new gas-powered GP line provides dependable, portable power and is available in 10 models. The GP line features oversized steel tube cradles to provide full wrap protection and low-oil shutdown to protect the generator from damage. The GP line also includes two of the most powerful portable generators on the market, The 15000 and 17500 series, both of which are ideal for use on the job site or as an emergency source of electricity at home. Visit www.generac.com.



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TOOL CHESTS TO BUILD ON

Storage and organization save are key to an efficient workspace. When choosing a tool storage system, consider your size and mobility requirements. Although an enormous 72-inch tool chest might be the envy of your neighbors, a fully stocked tool box can weigh well over a thousand pounds and encroach on a great deal of precious space. Is your work space at a premium? If so, bigger may not be better. Will the tool chest be mobile or stationary? Because the larger the chest, the more difficult it is to move, casters or not.



Gladiator GarageWorks now offers a line of stackable tool storage chests, each sold separately so you can add to the system as your storage requirements expand. The Premier series of stackable chests includes the 7-Drawer Roll-Away, a 3-Drawer Intermediate Chest, and a 6-Drawer Tool Chest. Each tool chest features heavy-duty, welded steel construction, sleek recessed handles, steel ball-bearing slides, cushioned drawers and a combined weight capacity of 1,000 pounds. The 7-Drawer Roll-Away makes a strong, mobile base with its rugged, reversible casters and reversible side-push handle. To expand the system, stack on the 3-Drawer Intermediate Chest, which is compact, modular and ideal for frequently used items. Then top it off with the 6-Drawer Tool Chest, which has ample room for large and small hand tools that are easily misplaced, plus it has a divided top till for even smaller items.

Available in Classic and Premier stylings, both versions will be sold as three-piece stackable units available for purchase separately. Additionally, Gladiator will soon introduce Wide Tool Chests for more tool storage options, which will be available in a 41-inch two-piece stack or a 52-inch two-piece stack (www.gladiatorgw.com).

OVERHEAD STORAGE RACKS

Simply put, overhead storage racks make the most economical use of your living area by utilizing space that would otherwise go unused. Easily installed by a DIY'er a quality overhead storage rack can hold up to 600 pounds and be customized to fit any garage.



One popular system, called SafeRacks, is solidly constructed of 14-gauge industrial steel horizontal supports with a c-channel design with wire mesh decking on top. The support structure of each rack is tested to hold up to 1,500 pounds. To maximize the amount of weight that can be held when attached to the ceiling of your garage, each vertical support in the SafeRacks system is attached to at least 2 ceiling supports. The dual connection design helps to displace the amount of weight bearing on any single joist for additional strength. SafeRacks is available in sizes ranging from 2-by-2 feet to 8-by-4 feet. The system comes with powder-coated finish and limited lifetime warranty (www.saferacks.com).

Another overhead storage system comes from Hyloft, which offers both ceiling and wall storage units available in various colors, sizes and finishes. Hyloft's flagship 45-by-45-inch ceiling storage unit is made of strong, durable steel and adjusts in

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height from 16 to 28 inches. It offers storage space of more than 30 cubic feet and holds up to 250 pounds. Each unit is easy to install and includes all necessary hardware to attach to finished or unfinished ceilings, and multiple units easily connect to maximize storage capacity. Hyloft also offers a 36-by-36 version of the overhead unit, as well as two wall storage units and a variety of accessories, including racks, baskets and hooks (www.hyloft.com).

KEEPING IT CLEAN WITH SHOP VACUUMS

From dirt tracked inside from the garden to sawdust from cutting and routing wood stock, garages and workshops attract dirt and debris like two-sided tape. For the messiest spills, shop vacs can suck up liquid or dry material. And, shop vacs are generally more powerful, and can suck up larger diameter items than a normal vacuum can. A vacuum system for garage and shop cleanup is crucial, but you don't have to buy the largest, most expensive system to get your money's worth. Vacs come in size from 1 gallon to 55 gallons, but most DIY'ers can get away with a 6-gallon, 3-horsepower version to keep size down and storage requirements to a minimum. Professional contractors may require a more powerful

vacuum motor and larger tank capacity. Serious woodworkers may opt for a more sophisticated dust-extraction vacuum system that attaches a hose to power tools to vacuum dust right where it is produced.

One new vacuum option for the DIY'er is the VacMaster Wall Mount unit. One of the most outstanding features of the Wall Mount Vac is a remote control on/off switch that gives you control of the vac at your finger tips, saving time and footsteps when using it for cleanup. Ideal for use in the garage, shop or basement, the vac also easily detaches from the wall for portable use. Equipped with a powerful 5-peak horsepower Dual Turbo Industrial motor, it



provides maximum suction and ultra-quiet operation, the Vacmaster Wall Mount vac is designed for consistent performance and long life. With 21 feet of hose and a 20-foot power cord, the Vacmaster Wall Mount Vac can access messes anywhere inside and outside the home. Plus, it converts into a powerful blower, perfect for clearing debris from the garage, patio or driveway (www.vacmaster.com).



ECONOMICAL WELDING TABLE

For those extreme DIY'ers who wield a welding torch, a safe and non-flammable work surface is key. The new Nomad Economy Work Table from Strong Hand Tools is a very affordable and versatile table that is easy to move about the workshop, and is designed to serve a wide variety of applications. The table height is easily adjustable, and the steel tabletop tilts to three positions: horizontal, 30 degrees, and folded for compact storage. Three 1.1-inch (28mm) slots in the 30-by-20-inch tabletop allow clamps to be inserted at any point, for greater "reach," so the user can fully utilize the entire tabletop. Two sturdy casters and a convenient pull handle make it easy to move the table around the work area. The table weighs just 44 pounds. Visit www.stronghandtools.com.

TOILET THAT FLUSHES UPWARD

Many garages and basements are built on concrete slab foundations that have no built-in drain stack for a bathroom. However, if a bathroom is on

your remodeling wish list, then there's no reason for the lack of plumbing to stand in your way. A macerating toilet, such as the various models from Saniflo, can be installed with no in-floor drain accommodations. These toilets use a macerating blade to chop up solid waste, and have a pump that forces the waste through the plumbing against the force of gravity. In other words, these toilets basically flush upward, so you can install them on a slab and run drain lines from the pump through the wall to the existing main drain of your home. Visit www.saniflo.com.



CARRIAGE HOUSE DOORS FOR THE GARAGE

As homeowners search for ways to improve curb appeal, many are searching for a garage door style beyond the standard stamped-panel design. And, with current market conditions as they are, homeowners are also looking for ways to make these improvements while getting the most value for their upgrade dollar.



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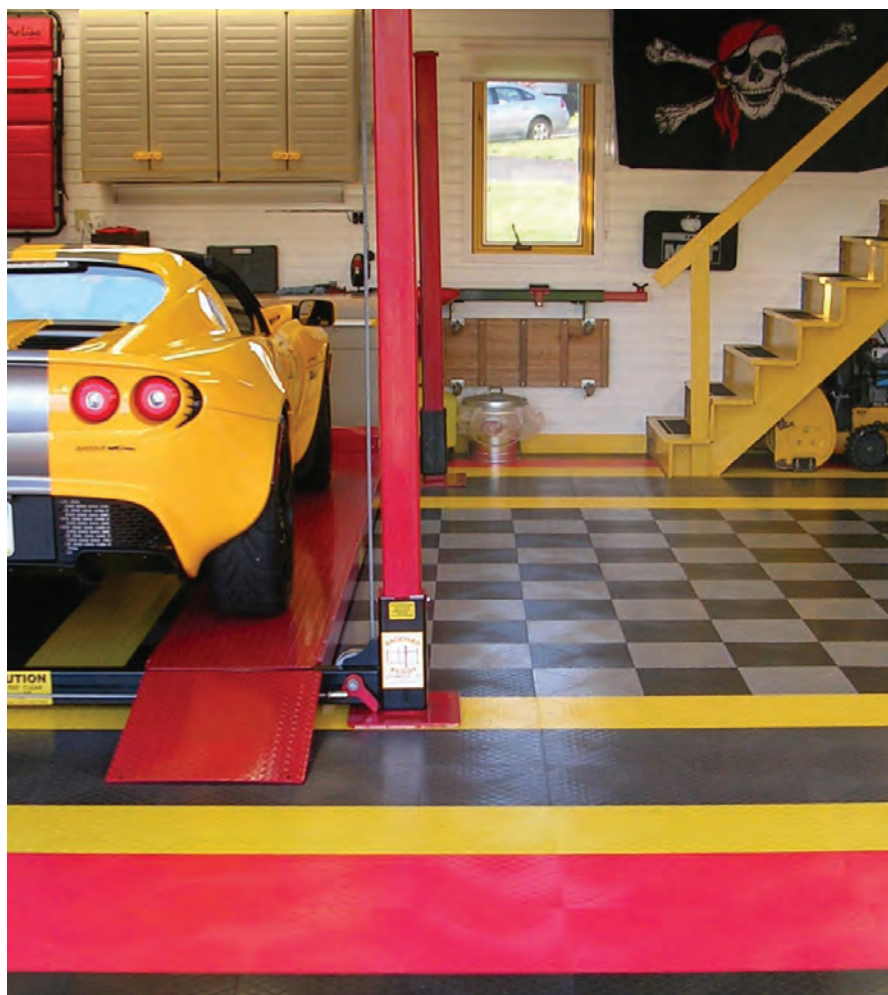


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The new 5000/5100 Series Pan-Overlay Carriage House door from C.H.I. offers an excellent combination of elegant style and practical value. This new addition to C.H.I.'s Carriage House Collection features environmentally friendly accent battens over a wood-grain embossed steel base section, creating an authentic carriage house style with a dual-tone look. www.chiohd.com.

GARAGE ALERT

Accidentally leaving the garage door open can invite insects, stray dogs and cats, and even stray people who may have sticky fingers—or worse. The new Garage Alert door monitoring system indicates to the homeowner from anywhere inside the home if the garage door is opened or closed. The indicator shows a green light when the garage door is shut and a flashing amber light when it's open. It also emits a single beep when the door closes, and two beeps when it first opens. Available in two versions, wired or wireless, the Garage Alert is simple to install for the do-it-yourselfer and brings added peace of mind to home security. Visit www.garage-alert.com.



SHOP FLOORING FOR ALL WALKS OF LIFE

Another popular modular flooring company, Snap Lock Industries, manufactures several lines of purpose-built flooring, including RaceDeck garage floor tile, made in the USA of a high-impact copolymer. The floor tiles easily snap together with no need for special tools, fasteners or adhesives. RaceDeck is engineered to handle extreme vehicle rolling load capacities and resist oil, grease, petroleum products, antifreeze and most household chemicals. Snap Lock also manufactures flooring specifically designed for certain applications, including SnapSports Courts & Surfaces, DuraGrid Matting &

Decking, and SnapLock Portable Dance & Event Flooring.

For the toughest, commercial-grade garage applications, Snap Lock offers the new REVolution garage flooring. "The REVolution system is without a doubt the toughest full-suspension modular flooring system in the industry," says Jorgen Moller, CEO of SnapLock Industries. REVolution has multiple patents and patent pending features, from the innovative PowerLock interlocking system to the unmatched SuperStructure that supports massive rolling loads.

To learn more, visit www.racedeck.com. **EHT**



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NEXT-GEN

By Matt Weber

Building a sun deck is one of the most popular DIY projects, providing a breezy outdoor retreat that adds to the overall value and décor of the home. The materials that cover these decks, whether real wood or composite, are ever evolving due to a growing demand for durability, low maintenance, and a desire to lower the environmental impact. Easy installation is another key factor, for the time-conscious contractor as well as the weekend warrior. Here's a look at some of the latest materials and how they can impact your next project.

NEW RECIPES FOR DECK BOARDS

Composite decking is no longer the new kid on the block. Well established as a low-maintenance alternative to wood, composite decking resists rot, insect infestation, warping and splintering. However, not all composites are

Advances in wood preservation, new prefinishing options and breakthrough composite materials are making new decks more resilient than ever. Photo courtesy CedarOne by Weyerhaeuser





DECKS

NEXT-GEN DECKS

created equal. Usually made from a combination of plastic and wood or other cellulose material, the ingredients of the deck boards play a major role in performance. For example, olefin is an oil-based plastic product usually derived from recycled goods. Although it benefits the environment to recycle these materials, a higher quality plastic for composite decking is vinyl or PVC, which is a harder material for a longer lifespan before requiring maintenance.

One new trend in composite decking is to eliminate wood from the equation.

For a low-maintenance deck with fastener-free appearance, Genovations deck boards, made from solid PVC, utilize a tongue-and-groove system that provides automatic board spacing and completely conceals the screws. Produced in the U.S.A., these durable deck boards come with a lifetime warranty and are designed for quick and easy

installation, requiring no expensive spacers or special fasteners. Only common deck screws are needed for installation, driven through a flange along the edge of the decking, which is then concealed by the placement of the next board in sequence. Most composites and wood decking materials have to be installed on 16-inch centers. The Genovations decking boards are so strong that you can span them up to 24 inches on center,

which saves on deck lumber and cuts down on labor. Genovations deck boards come in two profiles, 2-by-6-inch and the new 5/4-by-6-inch, and are available in four fade-resistant and stain-resistant earth tone shades (www.genovaproducts.com).

A similar concept comes from TimberTech has a new line of deck boards dubbed XLM. TimberTech XLM is manufactured as a durable-expanded cellular PVC material that features a



Above: Genovations solid PVC tongue-and-groove decking is backed by a lifetime warranty.



Left: TimberTech's new XLM boards are made of cellular PVC for exceptional stain and scratch resistance and minimal maintenance requirements.



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blend of mineral enhancements to reinforce its structural integrity. Billed as an “extremely low-maintenance alternative decking solution,” the manufacturer touts the product as providing unparalleled scratch and stain resistance. Can it be scratched? Sure—take a knife to it and you can scratch anything. But the samples our staff tested proved very durable and scratch-resistant under normal wear-and-tear conditions—much more so than lumber or typical composites. Foot traffic, dog claws or lawn furniture isn't likely to damage the surface. And because these new cellular PVC decking products contain no wood fibers, there's no source of food to attract mold or mildew, eliminating one of the most common problems associated with wood decks (www.timbertech.com).

ADVANCES IN CEDAR

The many benefits of Western Red Cedar as a decking material are what make it so popular for outdoor structures. Cedar is easy to work with, and the natural preservatives in the wood fiber

PVC deck boards are significantly lighter than wood-plastic composites, and they require no predrilling during installation. Photo courtesy Azek Deck



help it withstand insects and harsh weather conditions. When properly installed under normal conditions, cedar deck boards lie flat and straight and resist splintering. Cedar also stays cooler than many other materials. And in the era of “green” building, Western Red Cedar is a carbon neutral material,

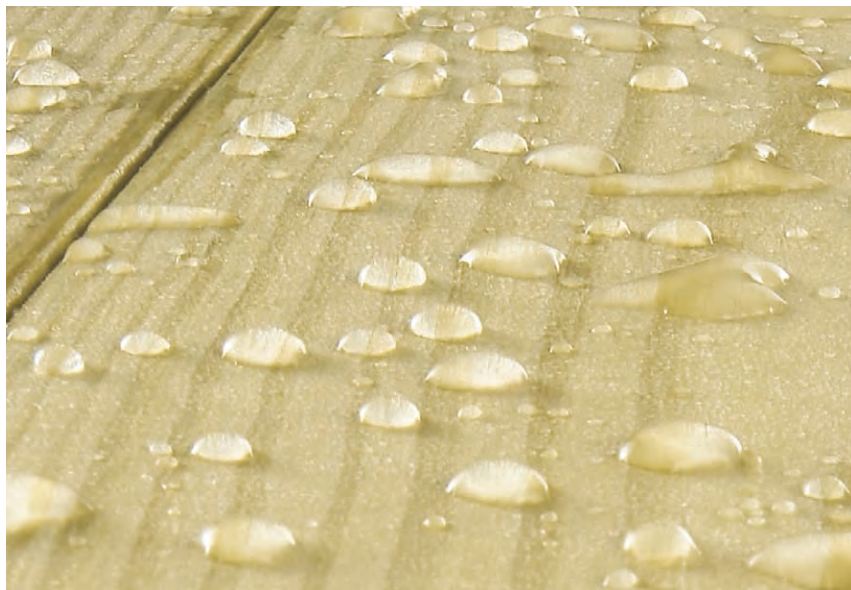
while non-wood materials produce considerable amounts of carbon during their extraction and production (www.wrcla.org).

Probably the most important trend in cedar decking has been toward factory finishing. Factory finishing coats all sides, edges and the cut ends of every board. As Kevin Leary, president of WFP Cedar explains, using a machine to apply the finish works it into the surface under controlled conditions, which ensures the boards are uniformly coated. This consistent coating process increases the boards' longevity and overall resistance to moisture. This way, you simply



The latest advance in cedar decking is the trend toward prefinished boards, which ensures the decking is uniformly coated with stain and preservative. Photo courtesy CedarOne by Weyerhaeuser

New technology in wood preservatives eliminates metal from the treatment process, and special wood stabilizers help protect against weathering. Photo courtesy Viance



choose the preferred finish color and install. Plus, the cost of pre-stained cedar boards is about half the cost of hiring a contractor to paint or stain them on the job.

However, pre-finished cedar decking is a fairly new product, so it may be difficult to find in your area. Leary notes, "Since decks are often small structures, the amount of material required often doesn't justify the freight charge if it has to be shipped. But if you can find a local dealer, then building a deck with pre-stained cedar can save time, effort and money. It's really an excellent product."

The presence of copper in traditional treated wood causes corrosion in many types of hardware and fasteners. However, the new decking materials from Arch Wood Protection and Viance use no copper in the treatment process.

BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY IN WOOD PRESERVATIVE

Treated wood is the most widely used material for decks throughout North America, and new developments in the treatment process are making some products more durable than ever.



Previous types of treated wood, such as lumber products marked with ACQ or C-A, indicating the chemicals used in treatment, depended on copper or other metals as the preservative. The high copper content of these products leads to fast corrosion of standard fasteners. Builders must use approved hot-dipped galvanized, stainless or coated fasteners with these products to avoid rusting. But there are other problems, too, such as when the copper reacts with metal hangers and lag bolts. In fact, with an ACQ or C-A product, metal hangers should actually be insulated from the wood with a peel-and-stick product to minimize direct wood-to-metal contact. To mount lag bolts through copper-treated wood, some professionals drill the lag hole about 1/8-inch larger than the bolt so the cavity can be filled with epoxy to coat and protect the bolt from the copper in the wood. These extra steps can add up to a lot of work.

In response, Arch Wood Protection recently introduced the first residential pressure-treated wood to be protected

NEXT-GEN DECKS

with a non-metallic preservative. For use on decks, fence boards, railings, trim, molding and other out-of-ground applications, Wolmanized L³ Outdoor Wood has a treatment formulation developed for low impact on metal hardware, coatings, wood-working equipment and the environment. The L³ Outdoor Wood is protected by an EPA-registered carbon-based preservative called PTI—that's propaconazole tebuconazole imidacloprid, in case you're taking notes. Because it has no copper, there is a no galvanic reaction with other metals, which means it's no more corrosive to metal than untreated wood and can be used in contact with aluminum. The result is also less wear on saw blades and other equipment, and it's ready to be painted. Plus, the Southern pine wood has a built-in Stabilizer™ additive to minimize moisture damage (www.wolmanized.com).

A similar concept in wood treatment comes from Viance, which offers the Ecolife brand of stabilized weather-resistant wood. Ideal for decks and other above-ground outdoor projects, Ecolife is comprised of a non-metallic, carbon-based preservative plus wood-stabilizing polymer system that offers the natural beauty of real wood combined with advanced weather protection and fastener performance. The Ecolife treatment also provides protection against decay and termites. And according to the manufacturer, results from accelerated weathering tests simulating two years of Florida weathering show that the stabilizer in Ecolife reduces cracking and splitting by approximately 90 percent compared to traditional treated wood.

"Ecolife Wood with new EcoVance Preservative is an



According to the manufacturer, the stabilizer in Ecolife Wood reduces cracking and splitting by 90 percent when compared to traditional treated wood.

industry breakthrough that provides superior performance and environmental benefits compared to other types of treated wood," says Steve Ainscough, president of Viance. "This technology truly is the next generation of wood preservation." Ecolife will soon be available in a variety of species including southern yellow pine, radiata pine, ponderosa pine, red pine, western hemlock and Douglas fir (www.treatedwood.com).

Both the Wolmanized L³ Outdoor Wood and the Ecolife products are backed by a lifetime limited warranty in

most residential and agricultural uses, and each can be used in environmentally sensitive settings.

WOOD DECKING THROUGH STEAM AND HEAT TREATMENT

One material that's new to the U.S. market is called PureWood. This is real wood decking that is treated with a mixture of heat and steam to change the structure of the wood so it no longer serves as a food source for mold or rot. Bay Tree Technologies USA, which brings PureWood to the States, offers a 25-year warranty against rot and decay. And

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according to the manufacturer, the treating process, developed in Finland and called Thermally Modified Wood (TMW), results in a much more dimensionally stable product than standard pressure-treating processes.

"We're talking about 80 percent less shrinking and swelling with this product," says Bill Schwam, vice president of sales for Bay Tree Technologies. "And the environmentalists love it, because we use such a readily renewable material to produce our decking." PureWood is created by kiln-heating Southern yellow pine to about 500 degrees in a special process that displaces the oxygen in the air with steam and heat. This special conditioning burns the wood sugars into a substance that can't be digested by mold spores or other pests, like termites. And because of the reduced moisture rates, the wood is much more durable.

"It's been known for thousands of years, the benefits heat can bring to wood," says



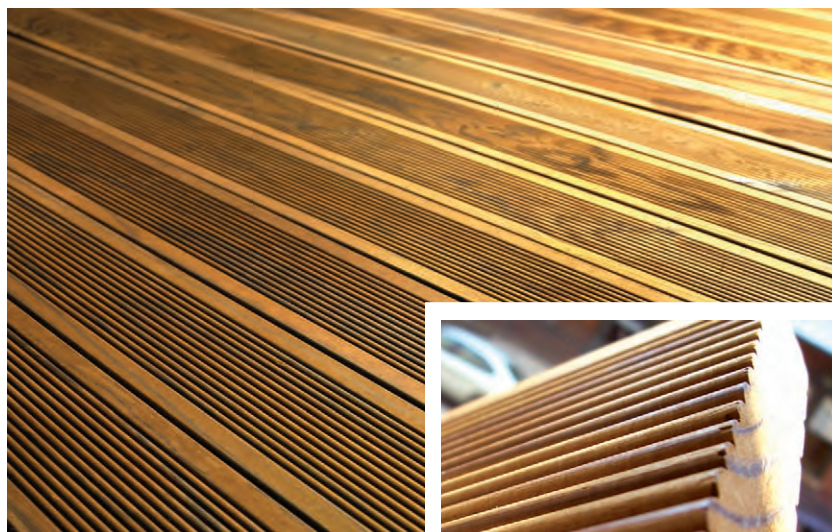
The new copper-free treatments, such as L³ Outdoor Wood from Arch Wood Protection, result in less wear on saw blades and other equipment. Photo courtesy Southern Pine Council

Schwam. "The Chinese and Japanese used to heat wooden bowls so they would better retain water. American Indians used to heat their arrows over a flame to harden the wood. We're focusing the process on decking. We have thermally modified boards that

have been exposed to weather for ten years, and when you cut them there are no signs of splitting or checking." However, the boards should be predrilled before installing fasteners.

Another side-effect of the heating process is that the wood develops a rich, handsome teak color that penetrates throughout the board. Scheduled to first be distributed in North America in the spring of 2008, PureWood will be introduced in two distinct styles: Sahara and Linea. Sahara is a traditional-style deck board with eased edges in a natural wood-grain. Linea is a Euro-style decking with a different linear design on each side. Each style is suitable for above and in-ground contact use and features PureWood's signature kiln-dried low moisture content. No chemicals or metals are used in the kiln process, and the result is a deck product that is 100-percent wood—and nothing else.

The decking will be available in a 1-1/4-by-5-inch board, and will be marketed as a premium



PureWood is produced through a special kiln-heating process. This results in a rich teak color that permeates throughout the entire deck board.



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product to compete with ipe, tigerwood and low-maintenance composites. PureWood will be distributed nationally, and you can expect pricing to compete around the mid-range of composite decking products (www.purewoodproducts.com).

WRAPPING UP

As you can see, there are some new things under the sun when it comes to decking materials. And with such stiff competition in the market, we can expect further advances to come down the pike. The next time we revisit this topic for a future edition of Extreme How-To, you can expect to see a brand new slate of decking options, stronger and more environmentally friendly than ever before. **EHT**



Purewood is available in Euro-style Linea (above) and a traditional wood grain texture called Sahara (right).



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Work in the Warmth

Here's what to consider when heating your workshop or garage.



This electric space heater has a slim profile to conserve space. The heater also operates by remote control and oscillates from left to right for excellent heat distribution.

ELECTRIC HEATING

In a previous issue we discussed radiant floor heating for household use. The same technology is just as applicable for a shop or “working” garage. Many of these buildings utilize a concrete floor, and the radiant heat cables or panels placed in a concrete floor or under appropriate floor coverings provide even, “from-the-bottom” heat. If you’re building a new shop or garage, this is an excellent choice to consider, because in-floor radiant heating heats people and objects, in addition to the air.

Other types of electrical energy heaters include portable heaters and permanently installed heaters. Economical, portable electric heaters can be used for small shops, or for occasional use, but they must not be left unattended, and dusty workshop conditions can be a hazard. Also, these units are not typically energy efficient.

More efficient, permanent-mount electrical heaters are also available for heating small shops, or for providing heat at a particular work space, for instance over a workbench. Many such units come with a versatile

By Monte Burch

Over the years I’ve worked in a number of shops, including an old unheated, drafty barn. I managed to build furniture and cabinets during the winter months, but even with a contractor’s kerosene heater, it was still miserable. A properly heated shop or garage can not only provide more comfort, but safety as well. If you’re not concentrating on your work because you’re cold, or your hands won’t work properly because of the cold, it can create a dangerous situation. And, some tools and materials should not be allowed to freeze.

A wide range of garage or workshop heating products is

available these days. The choice depends on the use of your garage or shop, the size and type of building, and the type of energy you wish to use to provide heat. The type of shop, and the materials used, can also dictate the heat source. I spent a long time in my dad’s cabinet shop, a renovated store front in a downtown area. The shop was equipped with a gas-fired furnace, and each week we sat aside a day for spraying lacquer finishes on the cabinets. The furnace was shut off and all pilot lights extinguished, because sprayed lacquers are highly flammable, actually explosive. The furnace was not turned back on until all vapors were expelled.

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bracket that attaches to the wall or ceiling, allowing the heater to swivel and direct heat where required. The heater's mounting hardware allows the direction of the airflow to be adjusted up or down. These garage/workshop heaters often have an automatic



Some wall-mounted electric heaters can be installed near the ceiling to keep the floor clear of obstructions. In fact, some heaters come with multiple wall-mount brackets, one of which we're installing in this photo. We placed the brackets on opposite walls to easily move the heater from one location to the other, depending on where we were working.



The heater easily slips into and out of the wall-mount bracket.

When activated, this 1,200-watt space heater provides ample heat directed at a large work area beneath it.

temperature control to maintain consistent temperature from 45 to 77 degrees F.

GAS HEATING

Gas, either propane or natural, is a common choice for workshop heaters. If the shop or garage is attached to the house, the house's forced-air furnace is sometimes utilized to heat the area. But this can also be inefficient if you don't want to heat that particular area as much as the rest of the house. A better choice in most instances is a separate gas-fired heater. Again, any number of these is available.

Gas-fired shop heaters are available in several sizes, depending on the BTU/Hr. The 30,000 BTU (British Thermal Unit) model is suggested for a 1 to 1-1/2 car garage. A 45,000 is recommended for a 2 to 2-1/2 car garage. A larger 75,000 BTU unit may be more appropriate for a larger garage or workshop.

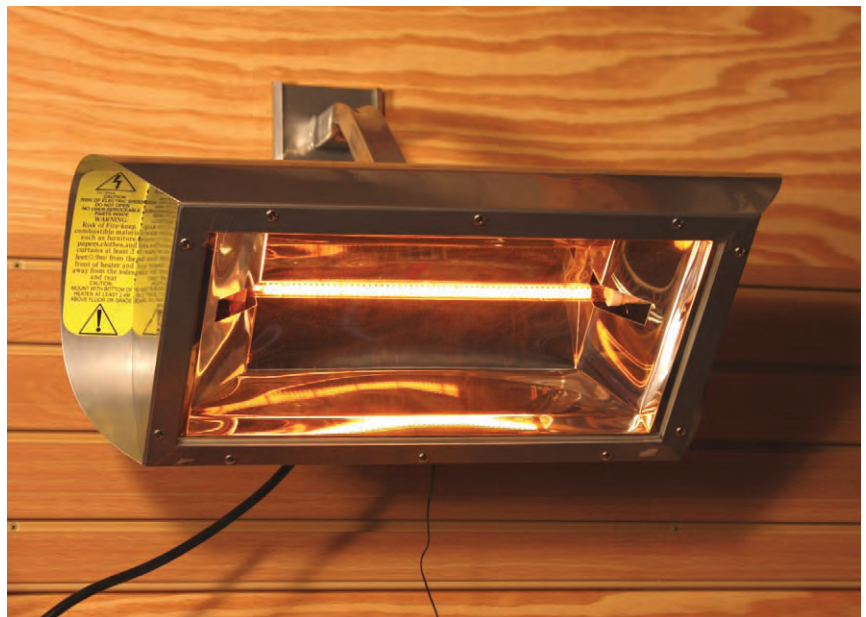
Some gas-fired shop heaters are power-exhausted and certified for residential, commercial and industrial use. The standard power exhaust simplifies side-



Installation of a gas-fired heater is fairly straightforward, but you may want to have a qualified heating and air conditioning installer do the job. The building code for your area may also require this.

wall or roof venting with a small-diameter vent pipe.

Other models feature separated combustion. These units draw combustion air from the outside to make sure the unit will have plenty of fresh, clean air to breathe. This fresh-air supply reduces common concerns about dusty, dirty or humid applications. In addition, by drawing the





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PROJECT NEXT

combustion air from the outside, the overall heating efficiency is increased. This type of unit has an external thermostat and gas connections.

Another type of “alternative” heat source, vent-free gas-fired “zone” heaters have become increasingly popular with homeowners and can also be used to heat a garage or small shop.



Gas supply lines and vent piping are attached to the back of the unit.

The heater comes with its own mounting brackets. Attach the brackets to bracing, or to the rafters in the ceiling.



Extremely efficient, these heaters are primarily designed as supplemental heat sources, and since they operate without the addition of a chimney or vent, every bit of heat that comes out goes directly into



A reciprocating saw is used to cut holes in the roof for the vent ducting.

the rooms in which they are installed.

Gas heat is typically available in two forms, convection or radiant. Convection heat warms the air, making a comfortable environment but taking time to warm objects or people within the room. Radiant heat, on the other hand, heats like the sun, warming the objects in the room first. Each type has benefits, and some homeowners even want both, which is why some companies have developed a vent-free appliance that offers both kinds of heat.

Vent-free heating is also completely safe in terms of air quality and does not require cracking a window in the room. In fact, since 1980 vent-free gas heating appliances have been equipped with safety-pilot systems called oxygen depletion safety pilots or ODS. The ODS automatically shuts off the gas supply in the event the oxygen level in the room falls to 18 percent. Most building codes throughout the U.S. now allow for the safe installation and use of vent-free gas products. However, since



Through-the-roof venting requires flashing.

The propane or natural gas supply line is run to the unit and attached.



HEAT SOURCES NOT RECOMMENDED

Although a wood heat stove is an economical choice, and somewhat common in rural shops, they can be dangerous due to the open flame. In addition, you probably can't get insurance, or the premium will be more than the cost saved by heating with wood. Some local codes may also prohibit the use of wood stoves.

Portable kerosene heaters are often used by contractors during framing and construction, and those with a forced-air fan can provide a lot of heat. Again, they do provide open flame, and require frequent filling with flammable liquids. They are not especially efficient and can be a source of carbon monoxide.

On the other hand, direct-vented kerosene heaters can be utilized, and are common in some woodworking shops.



Here's a shot of the gas heater completely installed.



this is not the case in some areas, homeowners should check their local building codes before installing a vent-free appliance. Installation of a vent-free gas appliance is very fast and easy. A qualified contractor simply makes a connection from the vent-free appliance to the existing gas line, and the unit is mounted in place.

You can stay warm next winter, but it's important to choose the heat source that's best for you. Check with manufacturers as to specific applications. **EHT**

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Fashionable Windows

Woodgrain frames and decorative hardware enhance the home.



Simonton Windows Decorum collection offers such decorative features as antique cherry woodgrain laminate on the window frames and grids.

By Kathy Ziprik

Imagine a family gathering room with modern maple hardwood floors and furnishings.

Complementing the setting are energy-efficient Simonton windows with maple woodgrain interiors and matching grids.

“Selecting replacement windows that reflect personal design style is one of today’s hottest trends,” says Tom Kraeutler, host of the nationally-syndicated home improvement radio show, *The Money Pit*. “Homeowners can put their own ‘style stamp’ on the project by choosing custom window interiors to complement their furniture, lighting fixtures, cabinetry and other home furnishings.

“Replacement windows can really play an active role in both the interior and exterior design and styling of a home.

Consumers can select warm cherry interiors, classic oak or contemporary maple to match their home’s interior while choosing a completely different exterior to complement their siding, shutters and trim.”

To create these different styling combinations in the home, Kraeutler suggests looking into unique window options, like those offered in the Decorum™ collection by Simonton Windows®. Decorum options allow homeowners to create custom interiors by requesting the rich warmth of

durable scratch-resistant woodgrain laminate interiors, including Antique Cherry, Maple, Contemporary Oak and Pure White, with grid options to match. To accent the windows, and complement other metal home accents, custom interior hardware is available in Brushed Nickel, Oil-Rubbed Bronze and Polished Brass.

“Our show gets a good number of calls from people looking to have two-tone vinyl windows,” says Kraeutler. “They’re interested in a white interior and a colored exterior vinyl frame. That’s completely possible with the Decorum by Simonton collection. You can have a Pure White laminate interior on a vinyl replacement window or patio door with either Driftwood or Tan colors for the exterior. You can even get matching two-tone grids. Throw in classic hardware accents like Oil-Rubbed Bronze or Brushed Nickel, and these options make it easy for homeowners to get windows and doors that really complement their unique living style.”

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ENERGY-EFFICIENT SIMONTON WINDOWS CAN HELP KEEP MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET.

Help reduce heating and cooling costs, increase your curb appeal and help boost your tax return. The new U.S. government stimulus plan provides up to \$1500 in tax credit to homeowners for installing energy-efficient replacement windows – which makes this the perfect time to purchase Simonton windows!



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For details, visit simonton.com/taxcredit/eht or call 800.746.6686.

SAVING MONEY WITH STYLE

Products featured in the Decorum by Simonton collection can be ordered with energy-efficient Simonton Energy Tax Credit (ETC) glass packages that are guaranteed to qualify for the federal tax credit of up to \$1,500. Simonton ETC glass packages are certified by the National Fenestration Rating Council to meet a U-factor rating of 0.30 or less, and a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) of 0.30 or less.

According to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, homeowners can gain a tax credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of qualifying energy efficient upgrades to a maximum of \$1,500 per household for 2009 and 2010. The regulations provide five times more tax credit to homeowners than was previously available under a similar bill, which allowed up to only \$200



tax credit on energy efficient window purchases. Additionally, the law has some very specific restrictions, including:

1. Windows purchased must be equal to, or below, a U-factor of 0.30 and a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) of 0.30.
2. The purchase of the qualified windows must be made during the taxable year for which the credit is being claimed.
3. The credit is only allowed on the price of the qualified windows

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themselves, not on installation costs, onsite preparation, assembly or sales tax.

4. The tax credit is allowable only for qualified window units placed in service in 2009 and 2010.

Simonton Windows has created the www.simonton.com/taxcredit information site for homeowners, providing more details on the energy tax credit. The specially-designed one-click location has a full listing of Simonton windows that qualify for the tax credit, a question-and-answer section, downloadable forms, case studies on energy efficient windows and links to sites with additional information. Homeowners may also order literature from the site and gain more specific details on the tax credit program. **EHT**



Accentuate your interior design with windows adorned with contemporary oak laminate on the frame and grids, and decorated with brushed nickel hardware.



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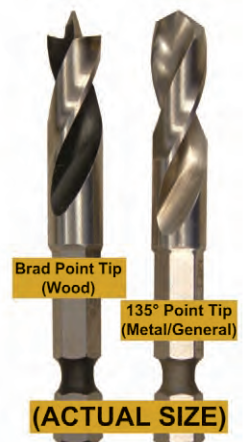


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HOT PRODUCTS

POWERSMITH MAGLITHION CORDLESS COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER

The new MLDD12C cordless compact 12-volt drill/driver is powered by lithium-ion batteries for extra power, extra run time and over a year of storage time. The Powersmith Maglithion line of power tools uses the same battery to run all the Maglithion tools (battery and charger sold separately). The MLDD12C is lightweight and compact for access to confined spaces, and the drill is solidly constructed with magnesium alloy housing and a rubberized grip. It features a 3/8-inch keyless chuck, a built-in work light and 23 clutch settings to dial in the appropriate power for the application (0-500 RPM). Plus, each of the eight high-quality tools in the Maglithion line retails at a consumer-friendly price, with the MLDD12C selling for only \$29.99 at Northern Tool & Equipment, plus free shipping. Visit www.maglithion.com.



STRIKER CARBIDE UTILITY SCORE



This Striker Carbide Utility Score is a unique new hand tool that allows easy scoring and snapping of a variety of materials, and is the preferred, safe method for cutting carcinogenic fiber cement siding, such as Hardie Board. Although it won't replace gang cuts of siding with saws, by using the Striker Carbide Utility Score, installers can safely cut fiber cement indoors and in tight or remote areas, such as on scaffolding, without creating dust. A crosscut file, located along both sides of the hardened steel blade, allows the user to smooth out any rough edges, and serrations along the blade's top edge create a notching saw that makes quick work when cleaning out corners around plumbing, junction boxes and HVAC openings. A striking cap at the end of the lightweight aluminum handle acts like a hammer to allow the user to knock out cut pieces and set siding nails to the correct depth. Visit www.strikerhandtools.com.

WORX LEAF MULCHER GETS FALL CLEANUP DONE FAST

The new Worx Leaf Mulcher can pack 11 standard bagfuls of leaves into a single bag, shredding them at a rate of 53 gallons per minute. Shredded leaves help garden beds prosper by improving soil water retention. They also aerate the soil, provide nutrients and fuel plant growth. The 15.4-pound machine sets up easily with no tools. When not in use, the mulcher's compact design enables it to be conveniently stored. Its large, wide-mouth, funnel-like top fastens to the motor housing, which straddles a sturdy, circular, three-legged stand. An oversized pull-and-push on/off switch is conveniently located on the motor housing's rim. The mulcher's 13-amp motor generates a no-load speed of 8500 RPM and provides a 13-inch cutting swath. The Flex-a-Line bladeless cutting line mulching system pulverizes leaves into fine mulch. Visit www.worxyardtools.com.



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HOT PRODUCTS

FOUR-TOOL PORTER-CABLE COMBO KIT WITH NEW BATTERY PLATFORM

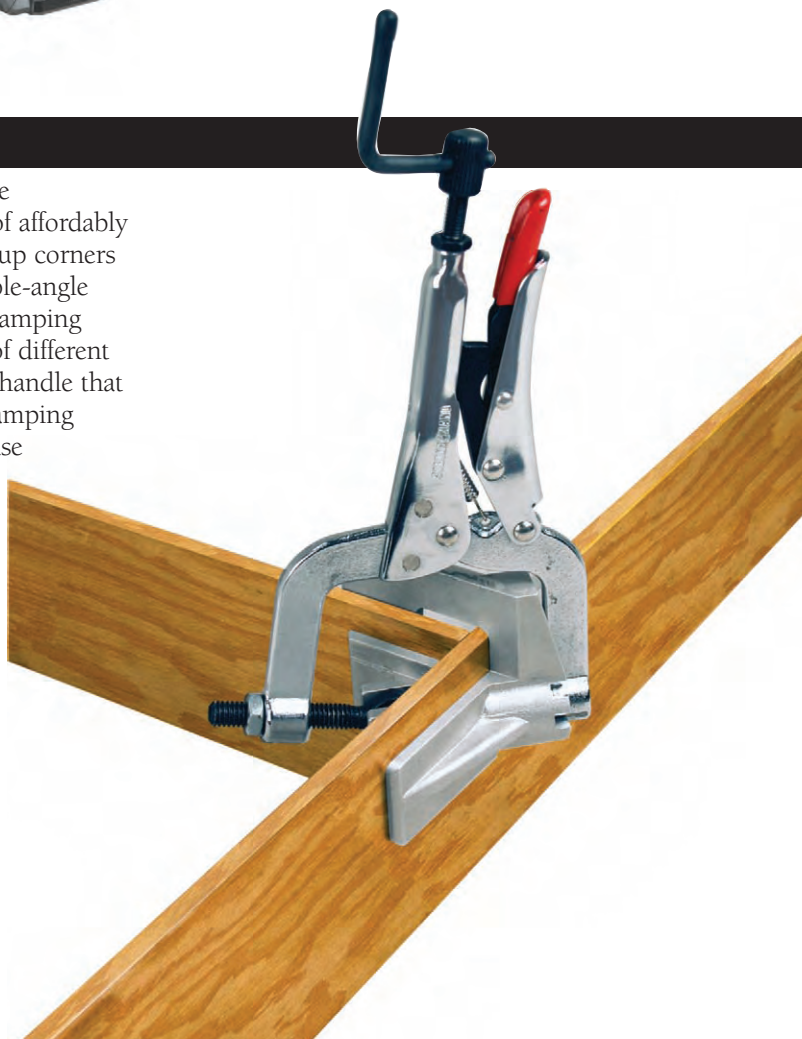
Porter-Cable's new 18-volt, lithium-ion four-tool combo kit (PCL418C-2) includes a compact drill/driver, a 6-1/2-inch circular saw, a reciprocating saw and a flashlight. Two lithium-ion battery packs are included, one LX and one EX, as well as a lithium-ion fast charger. The new porter-cable LX and EX 18-volt battery packs

are interchangeable with the existing Porter-Cable 18-volt, Lithium-ion and NiCad batteries. The LX battery pack holds 18 volts of power in a pack weighing less than one pound—ideal for drilling, driving screws and other applications where a lighter weight and compact size are preferred. The LX battery pack has a 1.3 amp-hour rating. The EX Lithium-Ion Battery Pack stores twice the power capacity of the more compact LX battery pack, doubling the run-time on a single charge while weighing 20 percent less than the Porter-Cable 18-volt NiCad battery pack. The EX battery pack has a 2.6 amp-hour rating. Visit www.portercable.com.



JOINTMASTER ANGLE CLAMPS

The newest innovation from Strong Hand Tools is the JointMaster series of angle-joining tools. This series of affordably priced fixturing tools makes it quick and easy to set up corners and T-Joints at standard right angles, with two variable-angle models. These fast, precise tools feature a pivoting clamping head that can easily be adjusted to accept materials of different thicknesses. The plier-body of the tool features an L-handle that quickly adjusts the opening and the torque of the clamping head. An easy-to-use, comfortable, vinyl-coated release lever can be operated with one finger, and quickly unlocks the fixture when the job is finished. The PL Series JointMaster is a one-handed tool that precisely holds materials at right angles. The PT Series JointMaster fixture includes two pliers with a fixed, 90-degree bracket for secure holding of two work pieces of different thicknesses. The PA Series Adjustable JointMaster tool can be set for angles from 30 to 275 degrees. A machine handle is used to set the angle, and “lock” and “unlock” the position. Visit www.stronghandtools.com.

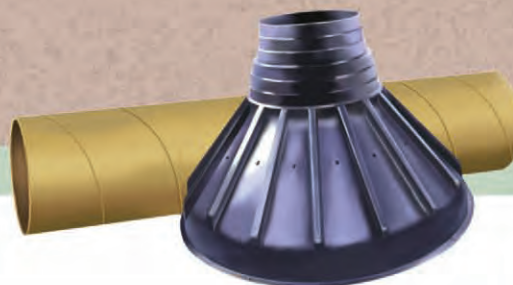


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- You should always make sure that a qualified engineer has designed the footing you are using and that it has been tested by an accredited evaluation firm.
- Select a footing that can carry the weight of your new construction and has met all the proper building codes.
- Ensure you are placing the footing form on solid ground. The more solid the ground the less likely movement will occur.
- Install your footings 4-6 inches below the frost line to avoid potential movement. If you are in an area without frost, the footing form should be placed two feet in the ground and then back-filled to hold it in place when it is being filled with concrete.
- Rebar is an important part of installation. Pour concrete into the footing system first, insert three or four number 4 or 5 rebar rods into the tube. To determine the length of rebar, measure the distance from the top of the tube to the air holes located on the Bigfoot Systems® Footing Form before you place the system in the excavation and backfill.
- Don't risk having to redo the job, do it right the first time!

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to view a complete set of
our installation instructions.

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HOT PRODUCTS

WOODEATER DRILL BITS WITH AGGRESSIVE SCREW TIP

Vermont American's WoodEater drill bits are redesigned with an aggressive screw tip to work like an auger bit at a spade-bit price. The self-feed screw tip helps draw the bit easily through wood, requiring little to no pressure. This not only takes less effort, but drills three times faster than standard spade bits. This is a great tool for plumbers, electricians and remodelers who frequently need a tool to make holes for wiring or pipe runs in wooden studs and joists. The WoodEater bits are constructed of hardened carbon steel. The single-construction austempered heat-treated shank provides stability and eliminates wobble. The dual cutting spurs are angled to score the hole on entry and exit, leaving a cleaner hole and reducing blowout. And, the bits are easily re-sharpened to last up to 7 times longer than standard spade bits. Bits are available with a three-flat shank in diameters of from 1/2 to 1-1/2 inches. Visit www.vermontamerican.com.



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